

REMARKS

Claims 15-23 and 25-30 are now pending in the application. Claims 15, 16, 18, 21 and 27-30 have been amended herein. Claim 24 has been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. POWER OF ATTORNEY

Applicants note that a Power of Attorney (Revocation of Previous Powers) was mailed in connection with the subject application on June 6, 2003. The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested in ensuring that future correspondence is mailed to the new correspondence address set forth in the Power of Attorney and shown down below.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 18 and 27.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 15-30 UNDER 35 USC §112, 2nd ¶

Claims 15-30 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claim 15, the claim has been amended to make clear that it is directed to "A method for manufacturing a coating layer...". In addition, applicants respectfully submit that how to control a PE-CVD process by modifying its parameters to obtain a given Si/N ratio is known to a person skilled in the art and thus need not be explained in the claim. Claim 15 has been amended to reflect such aspect.

Regarding claim 18, the claim has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner.

As for claims 28-30, the claims have been amended to depend solely on claim 21.

In view of the above changes, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 15-17 AND 19-26 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 15-17 and 19-26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Ueno et al.* in view of *Arao*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 15 has been amended to include two features of allowable claim 18, namely the inclusion of amorphous SiON into the coating layer and the Si/N ratio in the coating layer. Similarly, claim 21 has been amended to include similar features from allowable claim 27.

Neither *Ueno et al.* nor *Arao* teach or suggest such combination of features relating to the amorphous SiON and Si/N ratio in the coating layer. Accordingly, claims 15 and 21 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as allowable claims 18 and 27. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15, 21 and the claims dependent therefrom, is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Serial No.:

09/993,824

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP



Mark D. Saralino

Reg. No. 34,243

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